

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 /028 R

66011
DRAFTED BY IO/LAB:SWHILDEN:OF
APPROVED BY IO/LAB:APALMER
-----162204Z 026371 /75

O 161950Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111989

RABAT FOR HOROWITZ

FOL RPT DOHA 0583 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA 11 MAY 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0583

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/RA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO, QA
SUBJECT: ILO-63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: CRITICAL
ISSUES--QATARI VIEWS

REF: STATE 102699

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH SHARPLY CRITICAL OF US TACTICS FOR ACHIEVING
OUR AIMS IN ILO, QATARI MINISTER OF LABOR ANSARI AGREES WITH
OUR GOALS AND APPEARS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH US IN ACHIEVING
THEM AT JUNE ILC. ANSARI COULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO US ON
STICKY ISRAELI RESOLUTION ISSUE, AND WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT
US DELEGATION CHAIRMAN HOROWITZ CONSULT WITH ANSARI ON THIS AND
OTHER ISSUES PRIOR TO OPENING OF CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY

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1. ON MAY 10 AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED CRITICAL ISSUES AT FORTHCOMING
ILC WITH GOVT OF QATAR MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS ALI AL
ANSARI, WHO WILL HEAD GOQ DELEGATION IN GENEVA. (FOREIGN MINISTRY
PLAYS MINIMAL ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH QATAR
PERMREP IN GENEVA ABDUL RAHMAN AL ATTIAH ALSO WILL BE MEMBER OF
DELEGATION. WORKER AND EMPLOYER REPS NOT RELEVANT HERE.)

2. WE STRESSED THAT FORTHCOMING ILC CRUCIAL IN USG DETERMINATION WHETHER WE WILL REMAIN IN ILO AND THAT IT WAS UP TO CONFEREES TO PROVE THAT ILO WOULD TEND TO ITS OWN VITAL BUSINESS RATHER THAN PLAY POLITICS TO DETRIMENT OF INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY LDC MEMBERS. BASED ON REFTEL, US POSITIONS ON CRITICAL ISSUES FULLY EXPLAINED TO ANSARI.

3. IN RESPONSE ANSARI ASSERTED THAT GOQ MOST ANXIOUS THAT US REMAIN IN ILO AND THAT ORGANIZATION CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE IN NON-POLITICAL, NON-POLEMICAL FASHION. HOWEVER, ANSARI SAID HE WISHED TO SPEAK TO ME VERY FRANKLY ABOUT US TACTICS IN OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OUR LAUDABLE AIMS. ACCORDING ANSARI, US LOOKED UP TO AS LEADER OF FREE WORLD, AND ITS ROLE IN ILO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE ONE OF IMPARTIAL AND MATURE ARBITER. IN THIS REGARD, OUR ROLE IN ILO HAD BEEN MOST DISAPPOINTING AND OUR RESORTING TO THREATS AND WALKOUTS WAS UNDIGNIFIED AND INSULTING, AND CLEARLY NOT METHOD OF ACHIEVING OUR AIMS. ANSARI SAID HE WOULD NEVER FORGET SPECTACLE OF 50-MAN US DELEGATION WALKING OUT OF ILC TO BE REPLACED BY FOUR PALESTINIANS.

4. ANSARI CONTINUED THAT HE HAD ADDITIONAL COMPLAINT. ALTHOUGH, HE SAID, HE VALUED OUR PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS IN DOHA ON ILO AFFAIRS, HE HAD NEVER BEEN APPROACHED OR CONSULTED BY US DELEGATES AT CONFERENCE ITSELF. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EMBASSY PROVIDED HIM WITH GOOD OUTLINE OF US VIEWS BEFORE CONFERENCE, BUT SAID THIS WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CONSULTATIONS AT CONFERENCE ITSELF, SINCE CIRCUMSTANCES ON SCENE WERE OFTEN FAST-MOVING AND ALTERED PREVIOUS POSITIONS. WE OFFERED TO ASSURE THAT SENIOR US DELEGATE WOULD CONTACT ANSARI

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IN GENEVA, AND HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS, NOTING THAT HE WOULD ARRIVE ON MAY 28, AND THAT IT IMPORTANT THAT HE SPEAK WITH USDEL BEFORE ARAB CAUCUS MAY 30-31.

5. RE ISRAELI RESOLUTION, ANSARI SAID THAT ARAB LABOR MINISTERS, DURING THEIR MARCH MEETING IN ALEXANDRIA, HAD AGREED THAT ISRAELI RESOLUTION MUST BE DISCUSSED AT ILC DESPITE GOVERNING BOARD'S ACTION, AND IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO TURN THIS DECISION AROUND. HE ACKNOWLEDGED OUR ARGUMENTS THAT THIS WAS NOT MID EAST ISSUE (WHICH WE AGREED SHOULD BE LEFT TO ANOTHER GENEVA CONFERENCE) AND THAT HE TOO KEEN ON DUE PROCESS, PROPER PROCEDURES AND SUITABLE INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE CONDEMNATIONS. HE ALLEGED THAT BLANCHARD HAD BOTCHED THIS UP FROM THE BEGINNING AS FAR AS ISRAELI RESOLUTION CONCERNED. HE STOUTLY MAINTAINED THAT THERE CERTAINLY WERE VIOLATIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, FOR WHICH ISRAEL SHOULD ANSWER, BUT ONLY AFTER FAIR INVESTIGATION. ANSARI AGREED, HOWEVER, TO DO WHAT HE COULD WITH HIS ARAB COLLEAGUES TO KEEP THIS ISSUE FROM SPARKING AN ACrimonious DEBATE. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO

OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO DEFER FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER, BUT THOUGHT THAT AT LEAST ARABS WOULD DEMAND THAT THEIR RIGHT TO RAISE IT AGAIN BE RESERVED.

6. ON OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES, ANSARI SAID HE HAD NO TROUBLE WITH US-PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE -17 OR EQUAL TREATMENT IN APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS SINCE THESE ACCORDED WITH HIS STRONG BELIEFS ABOUT DUE PROCESS AND ADHERENCE TO PROCEDURE. ON LDC PRESSURE FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO INCREASE THEIR VOTING STRENGTH, ANSARI SAID THAT QATAR, AS LDC, WAS NATURALLY SYMPATHETIC. HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT DEFERRAL OF CONSIDERATION OF THIS SUBJECT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE IN KEEPING ATMOSPHERE OF ILC COOL AND CALM. ON GOVERNING BOARD CHAIRMAN, HE SAID GOQ HAD NOT FOCUSED AT ALL ON THIS ISSUE, AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT DO SO UNTIL CONFERENCE ITSELF, BUT HE NOTED OUR REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR MORRIS' CANDIDACY.

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7. COMMENT: ANSARI APPEARS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH US TO ASSURE THAT ILC RESULTS LEAD TO CONTINUING US MEMBERSHIP IN ILO. HE COULD BE HELPFUL TO US WITH HIS ARAB COLLEAGUES ON STICKY ISRAELI RESOLUTION ISSUE, AND WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, REQUITE HIS COMPLAINT ON NON-CONSULTATION. ANSARI HAS ASKED US FOR NAME OF SENIOR US DELEGATE WITH WHOM HE CAN DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ISSUES. SINCE HE IS VERY RANK CONSCIOUS, I SUGGEST THAT USDEL CHAIRMAN HOROWITZ CONTACT ANSARI AND THAT WE GIVE ANSARI HOROWITZ' NAME. DEPT PLEASE CONFIRM THAT HOROWITZ WILL ARRANGE TO MEET WITH ANSARI.

8. COMMENT CONTD: ANSARI IS MOST URBANE OF GOQ MINISTERS, AND IS AN OLD HAND AT ILO AFFAIRS. HE IS WELL-TRAVELED AND SOPHISTICATED, SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL, AND IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD U.S. HIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD CRITICAL ISSUES COULD SERVE OUR INTERESTS WELL IF HE IS PROPERLY APPROACHED. PAGANELLI

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE111989
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SWHILDEN:OF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770173-0802
Format: TEL
From: STATE
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Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 854abe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN LAB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 102699
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2501480
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO-63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: CRITICAL ISSUES--QATARI VIEWS
TAGS: ELAB, QA, US, ILO
To: RABAT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/854abe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009